

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating an animal having depression, a ~~condition that results in depression, or a similar condition,~~ comprising administering to the animal a composition comprising hydrocortisone and a delivery vehicle wherein said delivery vehicle provides for delayed and sustained release of hydrocortisone and wherein the vehicle is adapted for oral delivery.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said condition comprises: a sleep disorder; fatigue; abnormal eating; addiction; anxiety; chronic fatigue syndrome; myalgic encephalitis; jet lag; shift work; depression resulting from a person being overweight; depression resulting from dieting; depression resulting from treatment of cigarette addiction; depression resulting from treatment of alcohol addiction; depression resulting from treatment of drug addiction; or seasonal affective disorder.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animal has depression.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the depression is clinical depression, reactive depression, or post-natal depression.

5. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condition results from the administration of an antipsychotic drug.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the antipsychotic drug is clozapine, olanzapine, risperidone, quetiapine or sertindole.

9. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of diseases or conditions that result in depression, ~~or a condition which results in depression, or similar condition,~~ comprising the steps of:

- i) providing a combined preparation of hydrocortisone, or a functional variant thereof, and a delivery vehicle wherein said vehicle provides for the sustained release of hydrocortisone or variant thereof and wherein the vehicle is adapted for oral delivery;
 - ii) administering the combined preparation in (i) to an animal requiring treatment such that hydrocortisone, or variant thereof, is released in a sustained manner;
 - iii) providing a combined preparation of hydrocortisone, or variant thereof, and a delivery vehicle wherein said vehicle provides for the delayed but sustained release of hydrocortisone, or variant thereof; and
 - iv) administering the combined preparation in (iii) to an animal requiring treatment such that hydrocortisone, or variant thereof, is released in a delayed but sustained manner.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said disease or condition is depression.
11. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said animal is administered hydrocortisone which is released in a sustained manner which is followed by hydrocortisone which is released in a delayed but sustained manner.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said animal is human.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said functional variant of hydrocortisone is cortisol or cortisone.
14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said condition comprises chronic fatigue syndrome; myalgic encephalitis; jet lag; shift work; depression resulting from being overweight; depression resulting from dieting; depression resulting from treatment of addiction; alcohol addiction; or the seasonal affective disorder or a like condition.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said condition results from the administration of an antipsychotic drug.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said antipsychotic drug is clozapine, olanzapine, risperidone, quetiapine or sertindole.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said sustained release preparation is administered in the morning.

18. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said delayed and sustained release formulation is administered in the evening.

19. (Original) A method of inhibiting side effects due to administration of a glucocorticoid, comprising administering to an animal a composition comprising a glucocorticoid and a delivery vehicle, wherein said delivery vehicle provides for delayed and sustained release said glucocorticoid.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone or a functional variant thereof; cortisol; cortisone acetate; prednisolone; prednisone; or dexamethasone.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said side effect is increasing weight gain, reduction in bone density, muscle or skin wastage, or insulin resistance.

22. - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method for the treatment of an animal having side effects as a result of glucocorticoid administration, comprising:

- i) providing a combined preparation of a glucocorticoid and a delivery vehicle wherein said vehicle provides for the sustained release of said glucocorticoid;

- ii) administering the combined preparation in (i) to an animal requiring treatment such that the glucocorticoid is released in a sustained manner;
- iii) providing a combined preparation of a glucocorticoid and a delivery vehicle wherein said vehicle provides for the delayed but sustained release of said glucocorticoid; and
- iii) administering the combined preparation in (iii) to an animal requiring treatment such that the glucocorticoid is released in a delayed but sustained manner.

26. (Original) The method according to Claim 25, wherein said glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone or a functional variant thereof; cortisol; cortisone acetate; prednisolone; prednisone; or dexamethasone.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said side effect is increasing weight gain, reduction in bone density, muscle or skin wastage, or insulin resistance.

28. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) A method of restoring and entraining an endogenous circadian rhythm of cortisol in an animal having a condition that does not result from cortisol deficiency but is a consequence of a disruption in the normal circadian secretion of cortisol, comprising administering to the animal a combined composition comprising hydrocortisone and a delivery vehicle, wherein said delivery vehicle provides for delayed and sustained release of hydrocortisone.